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Viewing cable 08SANJOSE761, COSTA RICA SENDS MIXED SIGNALS ON UNGA THIRD

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08SANJOSE761**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08SANJOSE761	2008-09-22 17:42	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy San Jose

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-12/Investigacion/NotasDestacadas/Investigacion2711772.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-10/Investigacion/NotasDestacadas/Investigacion2707705.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-10/Investigacion/NotasSecundarias/Investigacion2707712.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-10/Investigacion/NotasSecundarias/Investigacion2707716.aspx>

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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSJ #0761 2661742
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 221742Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0116
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 000761

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN, IO/RHS AND DRL/MLGA.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/23/2018
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#) [CS](#)
SUBJECT: COSTA RICA SENDS MIXED SIGNALS ON UNGA THIRD
COMMITTEE STRATEGY

REF: A. STATE 95334
B. SAN JOSE 458

Classified By: Political/Economic Counselor David E. Henifin for reason 1.4(d).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: On September 4, we delivered Ref A to the MFA's UN Desk Officer Deyanira Ramirez. Ramirez reiterated Costa Rica's commitment to human rights; told us that the GOCR opposes all no-action motions; and stressed that Costa Rica, as a matter of principle, did not cosponsor country-specific resolutions but may vote in favor of them. The MFA also seemed to signal confounding support for the Human Rights Council and that more text-tinkering could be expected in the upcoming 63rd UNGA Third Committee sessions.
END SUMMARY.

¶2. (SBU) On September 4, Ramirez affirmed that Costa Rica voted "no" to all no-action motions as a matter of principle because these motions limited debate. The GOCR feels strongly that debate is necessary to hear all positions.

¶3. (C) In regard to the possible resolutions mentioned in Ref A, Ramirez noted that the GOCR voted in favor of past human rights resolutions condemning Iran, Burma and North Korea. However, she indicated that for this UNGA, Costa Rica would wait to see the final versions of the texts and then, if possible, would work during negotiations to seek "common language." We responded that we hoped to work in concert with the MFA and its New York UN Mission in advance of Third Committee proceedings, in consideration of the GOCR's desire to be consulted during the drafting (and strategizing) process. We urged dialogue in New York now so as to avoid the text-tinkering that delayed action on the Prisoner's of Conscience declaration and the Zimbabwe sanctions resolution (Refs B and C).

¶4. (C) In a follow-up on September 11, Ramirez told us that she had received instructions to inform us that the GOCR remained concerned about the situation in Zimbabwe, Sudan, Burma and "other countries where civil liberties are not protected" as well as member states that "forget their economic, social and cultural obligations." She stated that the GOCR traditionally took a "cautious" approach to country-specific resolutions, so as not to sideline the "valuable" work that the Human Rights Council performs. Ramirez maintained that this "doesn't mean we don't support resolutions and don't vote in favor of them when the situation merits, but on principle we don't cosponsor these types of resolutions."

¶5. (C) Ramirez continued that the theme of "attacks against freedom of expression" was important to Costa Rica, but she chided the USG for not accepting Costa Rica-proposed language on these issues (presumably referring to the Prisoner's of Conscience Declaration, Ref B). Ramirez concluded that the GOCR would therefore "wait for open debate" and would try to "participate as actively as possible, proposing language that Costa Rica considers vital." She added that depending on the final text and the manner in which its proposals are taken into account, the GOCR would be open to cosponsoring an initiative regarding freedom of expression.

¶6. (C) COMMENT: The MFA's implicit support for the Human Rights Council, as expressed by Ramirez (who made clear she was responding on behalf of higher authorities in the MFA) is confounding. FonMin Stagno himself said in last month's consultations with Acting A/S Brian Hook (septel) that with the HR Council (HRC), the UN had "gotten something worse than the Human Rights Commission." With Ramirez and the whole UNSC Team present, Stagno had agreed to re-examine the GOCR's "automatic" vote in favor of the HRC's annual report, and seemed to take Hook's point that Costa Rica's support was "whitewashing" and legitimizing the work of the HRC. The GOCR's desire for open debate and adding its own text suggests that Stagno and his team are likely to insist on wordsmithing in New York, and not necessarily in accord with the USG. As we have mentioned before, Costa Rica wants to be an equal, independent player while it sits on the UNSC, which

presents a coordination challenge for us in San Jose, but
even more so in New York. END COMMENT.

CIANCHETTE